

**TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
May 8, 2008 MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the Burbank Traffic & Transportation Committee was held in the City Council Chambers, 275 E. Olive Avenue, on the above date. Michael Flad, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

Members Present:

Michael Flad, Chair	Robert Heins
Joe Terranova, Vice Chair	Celeste Francis
Brian Malone	Hank Jannace
Donald Farquhar	Paul McKenna, Jr.
Ralph Herman	Lt. Ron Caruso
John Molinar	

Members Absent: Michael Napolitano, David Kriske

Staff Present:

- Ken Johnson – Traffic Engineering, Public Works
- Bonnie Teaford – Public Works Director, Public Works
- Terre Hirsch – License and Code Administrator, License and Code
- Nancy LaPrath – Police Department, Parking Supervisor
- Karen McMurray – Administrative Assistant, Public Works
- Rick Morillo – Senior Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office
- Kathe Ford – Account Clerk, License and Code
- Rabie Rahmani – Traffic Engineering, Public Works
- Melissa Blau – Recording Secretary, Public Works

I. FLAG SALUTE

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes from the April 10, 2008 meeting with one abstention from Mike Flad.

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: (Limited to items on the printed agenda or items regarding the business of the Traffic & Transportation Committee)

A. Public

Christine Redlin, Client Relations for United Taxi, came to speak on behalf of the drivers to let the committee know how great and personable her company is. Vic Kakosian, Public Relations Manager of United Taxi of the South-West, spoke about the history of the company and listed a few of the areas that are served by the company. Kas Shekherdimian, Marketing Director of United Taxi, gave a brief description of the benefits that the company provides its customers including discounts to senior citizens and a program to give bar patrons a \$5.00 coupon to use to prevent drunk driving. He listed a few accounts the company works with; including the Jewish Family Service, a couple medical facilities, and entertainment facilities in different communities. He also mentioned that according to the Department of Transportation an average of 8-9 minutes of waiting time and less than 1% complaint margin. Melese Adamu, President of United Independent Taxi and United Taxi of the South-West, said that they are fully computerized and are the first taxi company to use Taxi Track, internet booking, and will be the first to use Unified Dispatching System (UDI). United currently works side by side with City Cab in other areas. Jonathan Christman, General Manager of Gorgi Enterprises DBA Peoples Taxi, spoke regarding his regrets

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about the lost opportunity to apply during the application process. He is glad to know that the playing field is now more even due to the adjustment to the ordinance for submissions. He has taken exception to the statement from Neil C. Evans that the San Fernando Valley Taxis are the most sought after, because they are not the same as United Taxi of the South-West. John Gantus, G&S Transportation representative, came before the committee to point out that United Taxi did not provide information on the vehicles as required by the Burbank Municipal Code (BMC). He pointed out they did not say how they would provide CNG vehicles or disabled services, also required by the BMC. He also stated G&S Transportation did not receive a complete application as required. Jim Kipper, General Manager of G & S Transit Management DBA City Cab, spoke regarding the Needs and Necessity aspect of the meeting. They project, based on history, that they will see an increase of 5-8% of business by the end of the year.

B. Committee Members/Staff

Brian Malone asked Mr. Flad for clarification on whether or not the application process is being discussed today or just the Needs and Necessity. Mr. Flad confirmed that both are being discussed. Mr. Malone asked Mr. Johnson if there are a couple of corrections on the report. Mr. Johnson said that he interchanged United Taxi of the South-West and United Independent Taxi, and corrected it to be United Taxi of the South-West. In relation to G&S Transit, the 60 permits that will be terminated are with G&S Transit not Tri-City Transportation.

Celeste Francis inquired for more information why People's Taxi was denied and why G&S Transportation was given an incomplete application.

IV. REPORTS

A. Taxi Cab Report-- Terre Hirsch

Mr. Hirsch reported People's Taxi has been denied for so many years because the taxicab Needs and Necessities had already been filled. They were competing for permits with a present operator whose permits were expiring and had also re-applied. He speculated that if the Needs and Necessity had been increased, they might have had a better chance of getting those permits. The denial had nothing to do with their operations. In response to Mr. Gantus' declaration about incomplete applications, License and Code has deemed the application complete

Mr. Hirsch came back to the committee about the taxicab surcharge. The \$2.50 surcharge is being collected and the airport said they approved it some time ago. Mr. Kipper has been handling any issues that come up and they have been addressed accordingly. Now, whenever, the temporary taxicab owner's permit is applied for, License and Code has the ability to get a background check the same as they can on a regular permit.

Note and File.

B. Taxi Cab Needs and Necessity-- Ken Johnson

Mr. Johnson reported that the Taxi Cab Needs and Necessity defines how many taxi cab permits are needed every three years. Currently there are 120 units in place since the year 2000. It is also the time for taxi cab companies to apply for permits. Mr. Flad asked the members to disclose any discussions with anybody outside of city staff.

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Joe Terranova motioned, and Brian Malone seconded, to increase the amount of taxicabs by 10 units to make the total 130 units. Motion passed unanimously.

Ralph Herman motioned, and Joe Terranova seconded, to gather more information and meet at a later date that will be determined, approximately in 2 weeks, to discuss United Taxi of the South-West. Motion passed with one exception and one member absent, Lt. Ron Caruso, who had to leave after the last motion.

Brian Malone motioned, and Paul McKenna seconded, to have United Taxi of the South-West provide staff additional information by May 22, 2008 for a meeting on May 29, 2008. At that meeting this subject will be discussed further and have public discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Those additional items included:

1. Provide documentation discussing the issue in West Hollywood regarding the number of permits issued (93) as opposed to units in the city (50). How would you guarantee that the allocated taxis in Burbank would be provided by the company?
2. Document interest of the drivers who want to drive in Burbank and how many units will be in Burbank on a regular basis.
3. Document dispatch procedures and how dispatching would work for Burbank residents in regards to how to keep citizens from feeling like they are dealing with a long distance company.
4. What is the plan for adding alternative fuel vehicles to your fleet for use in Burbank and what other innovative programs do you have?
5. How do you require drivers to operate in Burbank, how do you deal with complaints, and who controls drivers?
6. How do you propose to share dispatching and cost of dispatching at the airport, and how will it be accomplished?
7. Clarify the legal ownership of United Taxi of the Southwest.
8. Where do you propose queue your taxis for airport operations and how willing are you to change the locations of where the units park?
9. Need clarification on vehicles (type, year, model) that would be provided would they be new or existing? How many units would you have that operate in the area and how many would be provided.
10. List and document the cities you serve and how many permits were given to the company and how many taxis are provided. Provide information on United Taxi of the Southwest and for United Independent Taxi.
11. Provide percentage of on time calls and the number of calls per year.
12. Provide copies of the contracts or agreements between the corporation and the independent operators keeping in mind that all that is provided is public record.

C. Status of RV Committee recommendations– Ken Johnson

Mr. Johnson stated that the City Attorney's office has the recommendations for review and approval. Mr. Malone expressed concern regarding the length of time the recommendations are taking to come back to the committee. Staff will check the status and return to the committee with the answer.

Note and File.

D. Traffic and Transportation Committee meeting times and dates– Ken Johnson

Mr. Terranova inquired about the availability of the Council Chambers before giving his input for when the meetings should be. Mr. Rahmani brought back information that the 4th Thursday of every month is open. Celeste Francis, Joe Terranova, Brian Malone, Robert Heins, Mike Flad, Ralph Herman, Don Farquhar, Hank Jannace, Paul McKenna, and John Molinar participated in the voting.

Celeste Francis motioned, and Paul McKenna seconded, to plan to meet on the 4th Thursday of the month at 5:00pm in the City Council Chambers. Motion did not pass with 3 members voting for 5:00 pm and 6 against.

Brian Malone motioned, and Paul McKenna seconded, to plan to meet on the 4th Thursday of the month at 4:00pm in the City Council Chambers beginning the 26th of June. Motion passed with one opposition.

E. Intersection driver sight distance– Ken Johnson

Staff recommends adopting an ordinance to have 50' of clear space for parking a large vehicle in a residential area. Mike Flad, Joe Terranova, Celeste Francis, Paul McKenna, Ralph Herman, and Rabie Rahmani participated in discussion.

Joe Terranova moved, and Brian Malone seconded, to incorporate into the LNCV Committee recommendations that were sent to the City Attorney's Office, to add to the code that no large non-commercial vehicle may park within 65' of the radius of a corner or alley. Motion was approved unanimously.

F. Magnolia Park Parking Report and Recommendations– Ken Johnson

Mr. Johnson suggested, due to the lack of time, to table further discussions and bring subject up at the next regularly scheduled meeting. The consensus agreed to table the Item until then.

There is no motion at this time.

G. Safe Routes to School, Cycle 7– Ken Johnson

Mr. Johnson suggested, due to the lack of time, to table further discussions and bring subject up at the next regularly scheduled meeting. The consensus agreed to table the Item until then.

Note and file.

H. Re-organized Burbank Municipal Code– Ken Johnson

Mr. Johnson suggested, due to the lack of time, to table further discussions and bring subject up at the next regularly scheduled meeting. The consensus agreed to table the Item until then.

There is no motion at this time.

I. Alameda Interchange Signing and Striping– Rabie Rahmani

Mr. Johnson suggested, due to the lack of time, to table further discussions and bring subject up at the next regularly scheduled meeting. Majority consensus agreed to table item until then.

Note and file.

V. OTHER BUSINESS:

Michael Flad welcomed John Molinar as the new T&T committee member from Public Works Field Services.

VI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Alameda Interchange Signing and Striping (May 2007) – Herman
- Traffic Calming (speed control devices) – Johnson
- Discussion of finding financing of building a Parking structure behind Porto's Bakery (Feb. 2008) – Terranova
- Commercial Vehicle Parking – Terranova
- Head protection and helmet law (May 2008) – Herman
- Traffic signal coordination at Magnolia (May 2008) – Herman

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:06 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, May 29, 2008 at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Ken Johnson, Traffic Engineer

KJ: mb